



March 24, 2005



## **Crack cocaine dealer is sentenced to 12 years in prison for drug and firearms violations**

A federal judge has sentenced **James Dixon**, of Providence, to 12 years in federal prison for trafficking in crack cocaine and for related firearms offenses. Providence Police detectives arrested Dixon in December 2003 when they seized crack cocaine and a handgun from his apartment on Comstock Avenue.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In January 2004, Dixon pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm, possessing with intent to distribute cocaine base (crack) and possessing a firearm in connection with a drug-trafficking crime.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerard B. Sullivan said that the government could prove that, shortly after Dixon's release from prison in October 2003, Providence Police detectives observed him making what appeared to be drug deals near his home at 67 Comstock Avenue.

Detectives continued their surveillance for several weeks and, on December 2, executed a state-authorized search warrant at Dixon's apartment. In various places in the apartment,

-more-

detectives seized a total of 11 grams of crack cocaine, a loaded revolver, a bullet-proof vest, and \$1,283 in cash.

Dixon has a lengthy criminal record that includes convictions for stealing a firearm, robbery, and assault.

**Providence Police** and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Sullivan prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 550 years in federal prison.

-30-

Contact: 401-709-5032

[Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov](mailto:Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov)